

14 February 1960

STAT

Mr. Ed Tunstall
Editor
New Orleans Times-Picayune
3800 Howard Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70140

Dear Mr. Tunstall:

Your 6 February editorial entitled, Recreating the CIA, has just come to my attention. It is another in a series of incisive comments which you have printed over time that show great sensitivity to the necessity--and resultant dilemmas--of operating a clandestine intelligence service on behalf of a free society.

You struck the right chord when you concluded that "the way to assure that CIA operates in the best tradition of the American character is to see that it is made up of people who embody that character." That chord is not often played, and is heard even more rarely. The fact is that the Central Intelligence Agency is composed of hard working, dedicated Americans drawn from all walks of American society who devote their lives--and in many cases have given their lives--to excellence in a most essential profession. It is they who have made and will continue to make the American model of intelligence work well. It is they who will preserve the dignity of their work in a quite undignified world and who will keep theirs' the finest intelligence service in the world.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Herbert E. Hetu
Director of Public Affairs